

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the notice that claims 19 and 23-25 are allowed and that claims 1-7 and 26-31 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101 and that claims 14 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101. Applicants have also corrected typographical errors with respect to claims 19, 24 and 25.

Claims 1-11, 13-15, 26 and 27-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Although Applicants respectfully traverse, Applicants have amended claim 1 and other independent claims, for example, to indicate that the operations are carried out by a graphics processing engine which is a particular apparatus. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 8-11 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aila et al in view of Greene et al. Applicants respectfully traverse. Applicants have amended independent claim 8 to indicate that the stencil code specifies whether stencil values in the tile are at least equal to, less than, or greater than a background stencil value upon which the tile is being compared similar to language in other independent claims. Aila and Greene do not teach or suggest the claimed operation. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

The dependent claims add additional novel and non-obvious subject matter.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is

invited to contact the below listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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